CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of Documents A1 – A3 is described in the present specification.

English translations of Documents A1 – A3 are not readily available; however, English language abstracts are provided herewith. The absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609).

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 29, 2000

FOLEY & LARDNER Washington Harbour 3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20007-5109 Telephone: (202) 672-5407

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 26,257

I Articola 38 80